

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant:	Timothy A. Hazzard	§		
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TC/A.U.:	3627	§		
Examiner:	Ramsey Refai	§		
Title:	PROVIDING ACCESS	§		
	TO A SERVICE USING	§		
	A SERVICE ENGINE	§		
Docket No.:	200901493-1	§		
	(HPC.0919US)	§		

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R § 41.37

Sir:

The final rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-20 is hereby appealed.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP. The Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 11445 Compaq Center Drive West, Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

None.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-20 have been finally rejected and are the subject of this appeal.

Claims 2, 8, and 14 have been cancelled.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment after the final rejection of January 15, 2010 has been submitted. Therefore, all amendments have been entered.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The following provides a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings by reference characters, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v). Each element of the claims is identified by a corresponding reference to the specification and drawings where applicable. Note that the citation to passages in the specification and drawings for each claim element does not imply that the limitations from the specification and drawings should be read into the corresponding claim element. Note also that the cited passages are provided as examples, as other passages in the specification or drawings not cited may also be relevant to the corresponding claim elements.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for providing access to a service, comprising:

providing access of a directory (Fig. 2:60) of a plurality of services at a portal communicating with a user system (Fig. 1:20), the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, at least some of the plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software applications (Spec., p. 5, ln. 6-22; p. 6, ln. 14-17; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4; p. 16, ln. 28-30);

receiving, from the user system (Fig. 1:20), a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

querying, by at least one processor, the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services according to the search value (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22); and

identifying (Fig. 3:208), by the at least one processor, a subset of the services of the directory (Fig. 2:60) according to the search value (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1);

receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the identified subset of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8; p. 7, ln. 10-12);

receiving a user identifier (Spec., p. 5, ln. 32 – p. 6, ln. 5);

linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier (Spec., p. 11, ln. 31 – p. 12, ln. 1; p. 17, ln. 1-5); and

allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 7, ln. 10-12).

Independent claim 7 recites a system for providing access to a service, comprising:

a database (Fig. 2:50) operable to store a directory (Fig. 2:60) of a plurality of services (Spec., p. 15, ln. 5-6; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4);

at least one processor (Spec., p. 15, ln. 15-28); and

a service engine (Fig. 1:34) coupled to the database and executable on the at least one processor to:

provide access of the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services at a portal communicating with a user system (Fig. 1:20), the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, at least some of the plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software applications (Spec., p. 5, ln. 6-22; p. 6, ln. 14-17; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4; p. 16, ln. 28-30);

receive, from the user system (Fig. 1:20), a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

query the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services according to the search value (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

identify (Fig. 3:208) a subset of the services of the directory (Fig. 2:60) according to the search value (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1);

receive a selection of one or more selected services of the identified subset of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8; p. 7, ln. 10-12);

receive a user identifier (Spec., p. 5, ln. 32 – p. 6, ln. 5);

link the one or more selected services with the user identifier (Spec., p. 11, ln. 31 – p. 12, ln. 1; p. 17, ln. 1-5); and

allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 7, ln. 10-12).

Independent claim 13 recites software for providing access to a service, the software embodied in a medium and when executed operable to:

provide at least a subset of a directory (Fig. 2:60) of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system (Fig. 1:20), the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application (Spec., p. 5, ln. 6-22; p. 6, ln. 14-17; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4; p. 16, ln. 28-30), the providing the at least the subset of the directory comprising:

receive, from the user system (Fig. 1:20), a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

query the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services according to the search value (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22); and

identify (Fig. 3:208) the subset of the directory (Fig. 2:60) according to the search value (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1);

receive a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8; p. 7, ln. 10-12);

receive a user identifier (Spec., p. 5, ln. 32 – p. 6, ln. 5);

link the one or more selected services with the user identifier (Spec., p. 11, ln. 31 – p. 12, ln. 1; p. 17, ln. 1-5); and

allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 7, ln. 10-12).

Independent claim 20 recites a method for providing access to a service, comprising:

providing at least a subset of a directory (Fig. 2:60) of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system (Fig. 1:20), the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application (Spec., p. 5, ln. 6-22; p. 6, ln. 14-17; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4; p. 16, ln. 28-30), the subset of a directory provided by:

providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 22-25);

receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system (Spec., p. 10, ln. 22-25);

receiving (Fig. 1:20) a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22), from the user system;

querying, by at least one processor, the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services according to the search value (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

identifying (Fig. 3:208), by the at least one processor, the subset of the directory (Fig. 2:60) according to the search value and to the selected category (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1); and

providing at least the subset of the directory (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1);

receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8; p. 7, ln. 10-12);

receiving a user identifier (Spec., p. 5, ln. 32 – p. 6, ln. 5);

linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier (Spec., p. 11, ln. 31 – p. 12, ln. 1; p. 17, ln. 1-5); and

allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 7, ln. 10-12), the access allowed by:

verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8);

providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service furnished by at least one third party vendor;

determining (Fig. 3:312) usage of access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 9-14);

calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 17, ln. 14-17); and

providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 17-19).

Claim 19, set forth below, includes means plus function elements, which are identified as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37. For each means plus function element, the structure, material, or acts described in the Specification as corresponding to each claimed function is set forth by reference to page and line number, and to the drawings, by reference characters.

Independent claim 19 recites a system for providing access to a service, comprising:

a portal (Fig. 2:110) for providing access to a directory (Fig. 2:60) of a plurality of services by a user system (Fig. 1:20), the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, at least some of the plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software applications (Spec., p. 5, ln. 6-22; p. 6, ln. 14-17; p. 8, ln. 29 – p. 9, ln. 4; p. 16, ln. 28-30);

means (Fig. 1:34) for receiving, from the user system (Fig. 1:20), a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22);

means (Fig. 1:34) including at least one processor for querying the directory (Fig. 2:60) of the plurality of services according to the search value (Spec., p. 10, ln. 14-22); and

means (Fig. 1:34) including the at least one processor for identifying (Fig. 3:208) a subset of the directory (Fig. 2:60) according to the search value (Spec., p. 16, ln. 32 – p. 17, ln. 1);

means (Fig. 1:34) including the at least one processor for receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the identified subset of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services (Spec., p. 17, ln. 1-8; p. 7, ln. 10-12);

means (Fig. 1:34) including the at least one processor for receiving a user identifier (Spec., p. 5, ln. 32 – p. 6, ln. 5);

means (Fig. 1:34) including the at least one processor for linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier (Spec., p. 11, ln. 31 – p. 12, ln. 1; p. 17, ln. 1-5); and

means (Fig. 1:34) for allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions (Spec., p. 7, ln. 10-12).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

- A. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teper (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,665) in view of Grabelsky (U.S. Patent No. 7,480,723).**

VII. ARGUMENT

The claims do not stand or fall together. Instead, Appellant presents separate arguments for various independent and dependent claims. Each of these arguments is separately argued below and presented with separate headings and sub-headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vii).

- A. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Teper (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,665) in view of Grabelsky (U.S. Patent No. 7,480,723).**

1. Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 19.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is non-obvious over the asserted combination of Teper and Grabelsky.

To make a determination under 35 U.S.C. § 103, several basic factual inquiries must be performed, including determining the scope and content of the prior art, and ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue. *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 17, 148 U.S.P.Q. 459 (1965). Moreover, as held by the U.S. Supreme Court, it is important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine reference teachings in the manner that the claimed invention does. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741, 82 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385 (2007).

Although Teper refers to the ability of service providers to provide services such as downloadable software programs to consumers, it is clear that Teper provides no teaching of at least the following elements of claim 1:

receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

querying, by at least one processor, the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and

identifying, by the at least one processor, a subset of the services of the directory according to the search value;

The Examiner also conceded that Teper fails to disclose the foregoing elements of claim 1. 01/15/2010 Office Action at 5. Instead, the Examiner cited Grabelsky as purportedly disclosing the subject matter of claim 1 missing from Teper. *Id.*

The Examiner focused on the discussion of user-specified preferences in Teper as somehow providing a hint to combine Teper with Grabelsky to achieve the claimed subject matter. *Id.* Specifically, the Examiner cited the following passage of Teper: column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 5. The cited passage of Teper refers to an online brokering service that stores and dynamically provides to service provider sites user-specific customization data used by the service providers to customize respective services to individual users, including user-specified preferences for the display of certain types of data, geographic region in which the user resides, and the configuration of the user's computer. However, the reference to user-specific customization data does not provide any hint of receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature **indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services**, as recited in claim 1.

Grabelsky also fails to provide any hint of the foregoing feature of claim 1. The Examiner cited specifically to column 1, line 57 – column 2, line 3, of Grabelsky, and also to

Figs. 7-9 of Grabelsky. The cited passage in columns 1 and 2 of Grabelsky refers to receiving a **call-session request** that includes a **partial destination identifier** that is insufficient to fully define a desired destination identifier. Note that the destination identifier mentioned in Grabelsky is used for establishing an IP telephony call session using SIP messages. Grabelsky, 1:12-53. The call-session request described in Grabelsky can include a search term that indicates additional information relating to the partial destination identifier. *Id.*, 1:65-2:3.

Figs. 7-9 of Grabelsky depict several flow diagrams that correspond to establishing a call session using a SIP INVITE message. As understood by persons of ordinary skill in the art, the SIP INVITE message is used for establishing an IP-based telephony call session. Grabelsky, 5:48-6:51. A problem that is purportedly addressed by Grabelsky is in the context of a call request for establishing a telephony call session, where the call request contains an incomplete destination identifier that would cause a database lookup to fail. *Id.*, 1:45-53. To address this issue, Grabelsky describes a way of determining possible matches of destination identifiers based on the partial destination identifier of the call request, and sending a response that contains at least a portion of the list of possible matches of destination identifiers. *Id.*, 1:57-65.

However, identifying a correct destination identifier based on a partial destination identifier and based on a search term, as taught by Grabelsky, has nothing to do with the claimed subject matter or the teachings of Teper. Claim 1 specifically recites to receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating the **type of software application** of at least one service of the services. Looking up a destination identifier to complete a telephony call session, as taught by Grabelsky, is simply irrelevant to the claimed subject matter.

In fact, the Examiner conceded that both Teper and Grabelsky fail to disclose receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services. 01/15/2010 Office Action at 6. Thus, according to this concession of the Examiner, both Teper and Grabelsky fail to disclose querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value, and identifying a subset of the services of the directory according to the search value.

Nevertheless, the Examiner argued that the subject matter of claim 1 would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art based on a modification of Teper and Grabelsky to include the claimed subject matter missing from both these references, since doing so “would allow the system to identify a subset of the directory based on the software application desired.” *Id.* The Examiner argued that the purported combination would have yielded nothing more than predictable results. *Id.*

It appears that the rejection made in the Examiner is based on speculation and impermissible hindsight. It is clear that none of the references provide any hint whatsoever of receiving a user-specified **search value** of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a **type of software application**, and then performing querying and identifying based on **such search value**. The only basis for the proposed modification of Teper and Grabelsky made by the Examiner is the teaching of the invention itself. Without the teaching of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found absolutely no reason to modify Teper and Grabelsky to achieve the claimed invention. Specifically, Grabelsky relates to identifying a complete destination identifier based on a partial destination identifier so that a call session can be established, which is completely unrelated to the subject matter of claim 1.

Except for a conclusory remark made in the rejection, the Examiner has not explained how completing a destination identifier based on a partial destination identifier for establishing a call session, as taught by Grabelsky, has anything to do with receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services (where the services comprise use of corresponding software applications), querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value of the search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application, and identifying a subset of the services of the directory according to such search value.

The Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action argued that *KSR* “forecloses the argument that a **specific** teaching, suggestion, or motivation is required to support a finding of obviousness.” 01/15/2010 Office Action at 3. However, *KSR* does require that it is important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine reference teachings in the manner that the claimed invention does. *KSR*, 127 S.Ct. at 1741. In the present case, there is absolutely no relationship whatsoever between completing a destination identifier based on a partial destination identifier to establish a call session, as taught by Grabelsky, and the claimed subject matter, which relates to identifying a subset of services (that comprise corresponding software applications) according to a search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services.

Therefore, it is clear that the obviousness rejection of claim 1 is defective since no reason existed that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Teper and Grabelsky to achieve the claimed subject matter. Moreover, it is clear that even if

Teper and Grabelsky could be hypothetically combined, the hypothetical combination of references would not have disclosed or hinted at the claimed subject matter.

The obviousness rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims is therefore erroneous. The obviousness rejection of independent claims 7 and 19, and their respective dependent claims, is erroneous for similar reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1.

Reversal of the final rejection of the above claims is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3, 9.

Claims 3 and 9 depend respectively from base claims 1 and 7, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. Moreover, claim 3 further recites:

providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system;
and
wherein identifying the subset is further based on the selected category.

With respect to dependent claim 3, the asserted combination of Teper and Grabelsky fails to disclose or hint at providing a list of a plurality of **categories** of the plurality of services, receiving a selected **category** of the plurality of categories from the user system, and identifying the subset of the directory according to the **search value and to the selected category**.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner cited the following passages of Teper: column 5, lines 49-55; column 8, line 64 – column 9, line 24. 01/15/2010 Office Action at 6. The cited column 5 passage of Teper states that a service customization feature includes user-specified customization information such as the user's system configuration, display preference, geographic region. The cited passage in column 8 and 9 of Teper refers to using user-specified customization information by service providers to tailor their respective services to individual

users. Such customization information may be provided to service providers either automatically or in response to queries from the service providers.

The customization information discussed in Teper, which relates to a user's system configuration, display preferences, and geographic region, has nothing to do with the list of categories of a plurality of services (that comprise use of corresponding software applications), as recited in claim 3. Moreover, Teper provides no teaching or hint of receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories, and identifying the subset further based on the selected category.

Claim 3 (and claim 9) are therefore further allowable over Teper and Grabelsky for the foregoing reasons.

Reversal of the final rejection of the above claims is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 13, 16-18.

Independent claim 13 is allowable over Teper and Grabelsky for similar reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1. More specifically, the hypothetical combination of the references failed to disclose or hint at the following combination of elements of claim 13:

receive, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

query the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and
identify the subset of the directory according to the search value;

receive a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services.

Moreover, as discussed above in connection with claim 1, no reason existed that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the references to achieve the claimed subject matter.

Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claim 13 and its dependent claims is erroneous.

Reversal of the final rejection of the above claims is respectfully requested.

4. Claim 15.

Claim 15 depends from claim 13 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13. Moreover, claim 15 is further allowable for additional reasons as stated above with respect to claim 3.

Reversal of the final rejection of the above claims is respectfully requested.

5. Claim 20.

Independent claim 20 is allowable for similar reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1. Moreover, claim 20 is further allowable for similar reasons as stated above with respect to claim 3.

Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claim 20 over Teper and Grabelsky is also erroneous.

Reversal of the final rejection of the above claim is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reversal of all final rejections and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VIII. APPENDIX OF APPEALED CLAIMS

Claims 2, 8, and 14 have been cancelled.

The claims on appeal are:

1 1. A method for providing access to a service, comprising:
2 providing access of a directory of a plurality of services at a portal communicating with a
3 user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, at least
4 some of the plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software applications;
5 receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable
6 directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the
7 services;
8 querying, by at least one processor, the directory of the plurality of services according to
9 the search value; and
10 identifying, by the at least one processor, a subset of the services of the directory
11 according to the search value;
12 receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the identified subset of services
13 from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions
14 governing access to the one or more selected services;
15 receiving a user identifier;
16 linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and
17 allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the
18 one or more conditions.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
3 receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system; and
4 wherein identifying the subset is further based on the selected category.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or
2 more selected services according to the one or more conditions further comprises:
3 verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and
4 providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to
5 verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service
6 furnished by at least one third party vendor.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or
2 more selected services according to the one or more conditions further comprises:
3 determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
4 calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
5 providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more
6 selected services.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or
2 more selected services according to the one or more conditions comprises allowing the user
3 identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

1 7. A system for providing access to a service, comprising:
2 a database operable to store a directory of a plurality of services;
3 at least one processor; and
4 a service engine coupled to the database and executable on the at least one processor to:
5 provide access of the directory of the plurality of services at a portal
6 communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third
7 party vendors, at least some of the plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software
8 applications;
9 receive, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable
10 directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the
11 services;
12 query the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value;
13 identify a subset of the services of the directory according to the search value;
14 receive a selection of one or more selected services of the identified subset of
15 services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more
16 conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;
17 receive a user identifier;
18 link the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and
19 allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to
20 the one or more conditions.

1 9. The system of Claim 7, the service engine executable on the at least one processor
2 to further:

3 provide a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
4 receive a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system; and
5 wherein identifying the subset is further based on the selected category.

1 10. The system of Claim 7, the service engine executable to allow the user identifier
2 access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:

3 verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and
4 providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to
5 verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service
6 furnished by at least one third party vendor.

1 11. The system of Claim 7, the service engine executable to allow the user identifier
2 access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:

3 determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
4 calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
5 providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more
6 selected services.

1 12. The system of Claim 7, the service engine executable to allow the user identifier
2 access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by allowing
3 the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

1 13. Software for providing access to a service, the software embodied in a medium
2 and when executed operable to:
3 provide at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal communicating
4 with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a
5 service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the providing the at
6 least the subset of the directory comprising:
7 receive, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable
8 directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the
9 services;
10 query the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and
11 identify the subset of the directory according to the search value;
12 receive a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the
13 user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing
14 access to the one or more selected services;
15 receive a user identifier;
16 link the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and
17 allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one
18 or more conditions.

1 15. The software of Claim 13, operable to provide at least the subset of the directory
2 of the plurality of services to the portal communicating with the user system by:
3 providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
4 receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system, the
5 selected category comprising the subset of the directory; and
6 providing at least the subset of the directory.

1 16. The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one
2 or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:
3 verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and
4 providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to
5 verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service
6 furnished by at least one third party vendor.

1 17. The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one
2 or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:
3 determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
4 calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
5 providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more
6 selected services.

1 18. The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one
2 or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by allowing the user identifier
3 access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

1 19. A system for providing access to a service, comprising:
2 a portal for providing access to a directory of a plurality of services by a user system,
3 the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, at least some of the
4 plurality of services comprising use of corresponding software applications;
5 means for receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search
6 variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of
7 the services;
8 means including at least one processor for querying the directory of the plurality of
9 services according to the search value; and
10 means including the at least one processor for identifying a subset of the directory
11 according to the search value;
12 means including the at least one processor for receiving a selection of one or more
13 selected services of the identified subset of services from the user system, the one or more
14 selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more
15 selected services;
16 means including the at least one processor for receiving a user identifier;
17 means including the at least one processor for linking the one or more selected services
18 with the user identifier; and
19 means for allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services
20 according to the one or more conditions.

1 20. A method for providing access to a service, comprising:
2 providing at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal
3 communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third
4 party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the
5 subset of a directory provided by:
6 providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
7 receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system;
8 receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature
9 indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services, from the user
10 system;
11 querying, by at least one processor, the directory of the plurality of services according to
12 the search value;
13 identifying, by the at least one processor, the subset of the directory according to the
14 search value and to the selected category; and
15 providing at least the subset of the directory;
16 receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the
17 user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing
18 access to the one or more selected services;
19 receiving a user identifier;
20 linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and
21 allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal
22 according to the one or more conditions, the access allowed by:
23 verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier;
24 providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to
25 verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service
26 furnished by at least one third party vendor;
27 determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
28 calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
29 providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more
30 selected services.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.